

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6; please cancel claims 2 and 9-11.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composition comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm , an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to 2000, and produced using a source material that will introduce phosphate ions, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P_2O_5 .

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously amended): The flaky α -alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claims 4-5 (withdrawn).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A cosmetic [containing] comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm and an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to

2000, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P₂O₅.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α -alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm .

Claim 8 (previously amended): The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α -alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously added): The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.